

ADVOCACY METHODS FOR PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN MALAYSIA

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ABSTRACT

In most countries, legislation that promotes and protects the rights of people with disabilities would involve the insertion of an anti-discrimination clause. Despite inserting the clause, another alternative of advocacy methods provided a significant approach in harmonising the UN CRPD and local legislations on disability. This paper explores the various advocacy methods employed to protect the rights of persons with disabilities (PWD) in Malaysia. Grounded in the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), including Article 13, which focuses on access to justice, it evaluates the effectiveness of legal frameworks, public policy, and civil society efforts in advancing disability rights in the country. Malaysia's Persons with Disabilities Act 2008 (PWDA) and its limitations in enforcement are critically examined. This paper highlights the role of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), grassroots movements, and international collaborations in driving awareness, policy reform, and legal action. Specific strategies, such as litigation, policy lobbying, and public campaigning, are discussed, showcasing their impact on accessibility, education, employment, and healthcare for PWD. The paper also identifies gaps in existing advocacy efforts and provides recommendations for more inclusive and effective protection mechanisms to empower persons with disabilities in Malaysia.

Keywords: Persons with Disabilities, Advocacy Methods, CRPD, Persons with Disabilities Act 2008, Access to Justice.